

Bush: I Won't Yield Chance To Be the VP

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington, Dec. 15 (News Bureau) — George Bush, President Ford's nominee for director of the Central Intelligence Agency, promised today that, if confirmed, he would "put politics totally out of my sphere of activities" once he takes on the new job.

But Bush refused to rule out accepting the Republican vice presidential nomination.

Liberal Democrats, headed by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Intelli-

gence Committee, have contended that Bush, former Republican national chairman, should not be eligible for the traditionally nonpolitical post as the nation's top spy.

But Bush, now U.S. envoy to China, told the Senate Armed Services Committee: "I don't think any American should be asked to say he would not accept such an offer. To my knowledge, no one in the history of this republic has ever been asked to renounce his political birthright as the price of confrontation to any office."

Bush, praised by the senior Democrats on the panel, Chairman John Stennis (Miss.) and Sen. Stuart Symington (Mo.), was not expected to have much trouble winning confirmation. Two junior Democrats, Sens. Patrick Leahy (Vt.) and Gary Hart (Colo.), were expected to vote against Bush on the political issue.

Leahy complained that "the public trust has been badly eroded and a director whose background is primarily political is not a good choice." Hart worried that a "questionable precedent would be established by this kind of appointment."

But Bush contended that he should be judged on his qualifications and service as envoy to China and the United Nations.

He also promised Symington that he would voluntarily appear on Capitol Hill to report on anything he thought was wrong with the CIA.

Bush said he would resign if any President ordered an assassination. But when asked if he would refuse any order to overthrow a foreign government, Bush said: "I can't tell you that there would never be any support of a coup d'etat."